

Annual Town Meeting Minutes
3rd Session
June 6, 2016

Town Moderator, Stephen Doherty, called the session of 2016 Annual Town Meeting to order on June 6th at 7:34p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 298 Central Street, Saugus, MA with 46 members present. A quorum was met.

Town Clerk, Ellen Schena, called the roll.

Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent
ATTUBATO, J	P	ALLEN, P	P	BARTOLO, J.	P
BILLINGSLEY, S.	P	BRAZIS, K	P	BROWN, W.	P
CANTERBURY, M.	P	CICOLINI, J.	P	COBURN, J.	P
CONNORS, A.	A	COSTELLO, M.	P	COSTIN, J.B.	P
COTTAM, J.	P	COX, R.	P	DECAREAU, E.	P
DEVLIN, F.A.	P	DINARDO, A.	P	DIVIRGILIO, A.	P
DOHERTY, S.	P	FALASCA, T.	P	FINN, C.	P
FOWLER, J.	P	GOODWIN, P.	P	GOLDSTEIN, J.	P
GROARK, L.	P	HORLICK, S.	P	JOHNSON, P.	P
JONES, C.	P	KELLY, D.	P	LEUCI, W.	P
LOPRESTI, A.	A	MCCABE, K.	P	MCCARTHY, S.	P
MCLAUGHLIN, P.	P	MCTAGUE, J.	A	MORESCHI, C.	P
MURPHY, S.	P	PAOLINI, M.	P	POLITANO, K.	P
RING, D.	A	RODENHISER, J.	P	ROSSETTI, P.	P
SERINO, M.	P	SPENCER, B.	P	STEWART, W.	P
SULLIVAN, P.	A	SWEEZEY, S.	P	THOMPSON, R.	P
WALLACE, R.	P	WITTEN, R.	P		

45 Members present, a quorum is met.

Next was the acceptance of 2nd Session ATM minutes from June 6, 2016 at 7:39 p.m.

Seconded at 7:39 p.m.

Reports from Committees:

Finance Committee Report.

Ken DePatto, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke at 7:40 p.m. with regards to the Finance Committees recommendations on the 4 remaining Articles, especially Article 2 which is the FY 2017 Budget. It is a balanced budget without any structural deficits. There is a Special Warrant to be taken up this Wednesday dealing with OPEB which is unfunded liability costs for the town.

Moderator Doherty would like to recognize some of the Finance Committee member here tonight.

No other reports from committees

As a courtesy to the Town Manager, Mr. Allan from Precinct 3 moves Article 2 as recommend

Seconded at 7:43 p.m.

Article as written:

Article 2. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town charges for the ensuring Fiscal Years 2017 (Town Manager).

Town Meeting Moderator	\$1.00.00
Board of Selectmen	\$50,224.00
Town Manager	\$609,313.00
Finance Committee	\$105,000.00
Accounting	\$462,216.00
Assessors	\$327,834.00
Treasurer/Collector	\$355,304.00
Legal Counsel	\$273,33.300
Human Resources	\$144,520.00
Information Technology	\$315,027.00

Town Clerk	\$139,232.00
Election & Registration	\$107,461.00
Conservation Commission	\$47,833.00
Planning Board	\$39,684.00
Board of Appeals	\$26,549.00
Dept of Planning & Economic Development	\$215,675.00
Police Department	\$6,462,797.00
Fire Department	\$4,722,268.00
Code Enforcement – Building Inspection	\$169,832.00
Code Enforcement – Gas & Plumbing Inspection	\$43,754.00
Code Enforcement – Sealer of Weights & Measures	\$12,321.00
Code Enforcement – Electrical Inspection	\$44,179.00
Emergency Management	\$14,143.00
Animal Control	\$57,153.00
Harbormaster	\$1.00.00
Public Safety – Dispatcher	\$741,933.00
Vocational Education – Regional Schools	\$3,606,462.00
Department of Public Works	\$4,320,815.00
Engineering Department	\$80,289.00
Building Maintenance & Grounds	\$1,261,589.00
Health Department	\$193,184.00
Council on Aging	\$227,914.00
Veterans Services	\$431,417.00
Handicap Commission	\$950.00
Fair Housing Commission	\$300.00
Library	\$602,299.00
Youth & Recreation	\$126,833.00
Lobsterman’s Landing	\$16,489.00
Celebrations	\$2,000.00
Debt Service – Principal	\$1,515,000.00
Debt Service - Interest	\$673,544.00
Employee Benefits	\$19,597,505.00
Retirement Board	\$117,053.00
Other Insurance	\$727,060.00
Saugus School Department	\$28,175,250.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$77,170,940.00

Town Moderator Steve Doherty reads the bottom line numbers of the FY 2017 Budget. Town meeting members “Hold” on the following budgets:

- Finance Committee
- Information Technology
- Department of Planning & Economic Development
- Emergency Management
- Vocational Education
- Engineering Department
- Employee Benefits

Discussion on the “Holds”:

Finance Committee Budget:

At 7:54 p.m. Mr. Cox from Precinct 4 speaks on 2 issues he has with the finance Committee budget; one is the funding of the members which is prohibited by Town Charter and the second is why there is \$100,000.00 in an account that the Finance Committee cannot spend? The Town should know what this is used for?

At 7:58 p.m. Mr. Ed Decareau from Precinct 8 states he was told the \$100,000.00 is for an emergency fund. He is against this.

At 7:59 p.m. Ken DePatto the Chairman of the Finance Committee explains the \$5,000.00 was for reimbursement for expenses, not wages. Regarding the \$100,000.00 has been in the account forever and is per MGL Chapter 40 Section 6. The Finance Committee cannot spend the funds but the Town Manager can ask for the money for emergencies that cannot wait for Town meeting to be called in session.

At 8:03 p.m. Mr. Bill Brown from Precinct 6 states that he thought the Stabilization Fund is for emergencies. Now that the Chairman explains about the \$5,000.00 but he is okay with it now. However, he is still concerned with the \$100,000.00 and this budget. The Town should be watching spending if local aid will be possibly cut.

At 8:08 p.m. Al DiNardo from Precinct 4 explains the \$5,000.00 was not recommended by anyone on the Finance Committee who is appt by the former Town Moderator as well as the current Moderator. The recommendation came from an outside source. He also explains that if the \$100,000.00 is not used it just remains there.

Information Technology Budget:

At 8:11 p.m. Mr. Robert Cox from Precinct 4 asks the Town Manager why the department was tripled and why the town is

out-sourcing instead of in-house?

At 8:12 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree answers that one of the things done is out-sourcing with 2-3 people that rotate all week to assist with help desk, network and infrastructure issues throughout the town. It’s been about 7 to 8 months with the outside vendor and it has been very efficient, and will continue this way with the outside vendor. With regards to the other comments, these are fixed costs for software and maintenance contracts.

Department of Planning & Economic Development:

At 8:16 p.m. Mr. Bill Brown from Precinct 6 asks since Mr. Bob Luongo left has the Town been able to hire someone to replace him?

At 8:17 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree informs the Meeting Members that the town tried to keep Mr. Luongo but was unable to do that. The position was advertised and the town did have some candidates but it did not pan out or was the right fit for Saugus. They decided to separate the position into 2 different aspects and reposted the job descriptions as follow: 1) Planning & Zoning and 2) Community Development.

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Peter Rossetti, Jr. from Precinct 2 supports these 2 positions.

Emergency Management:

At 8:22 p.m. Ms. Jean Bartolo from Precinct 6 asks for an explanation on all the blanks on the sheet but for the expense side when there is no Emergency Management?

At 8:23 p.m. Michael Newbury, Fire Chief for Saugus answers that the duties of Emergency Management folded under the Fire Department approximately 3 years ago. However, there are still various expenses on the emergency management side that need to be paid. What he recommended to the Town Manager this year was folding all the expenses together which are approximately \$6,500.00. Every year he applies for an Emergency Grant for the Town’s emergency management performance that doesn’t cover all the expenses.

Vocational Education – Regional School Assessment:

At 8:26 p.m. Mr. Brent Spencer from Precinct 5 states he doesn’t have a problem with the figures, but what is the break down in the future? Explain the different schools we are allocating the money too?

At 8:27 p.m. Mr. Al DiNardo from Precinct 4 states that Saugus pays one of the highest rates per student and he believes the highest per assessment than any other community.

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Peter Rossetti, Jr. from Precinct 2 informs that he is a representative for the vocational school and he agrees with Al DiNardo that Saugus pay a lot. Also stated that the formula the state uses is very complex.

Engineering Department:

No Discussion

Employee Benefits:

At 8:35 p.m. Mr. Matthew Canterbury from Precinct 6 asks for the clarification on the retirement portion from last year?

At 8:36 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree answers about the health insurance benefits due to increase in premiums which is the bulk of the increase.

School Department:

At 8:37 p.m. Acting Superintendent Mr. Michael Hashem speaks on the approving the \$500,000.00 above the FY 16 budget. However, the schools will still be \$500,000.00 short so cuts still will be made. He clarifies on where the schools are for the money.

No other Holds.

Article as Voted: Voted to recommend to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,175,250.00 for the School Operating Budget and \$48,995,690.00 for the Municipal Town Department Operating Budget totaling \$77,170,940.00 for the ensuring Fiscal year 2017. Funding to be provided from the tax levy, available funds, and estimated receipts.

Seconded at 8:02 p.m.

Hand Count Vote by Tellers: **Left: 20**
 Right: 25
 Total: 45 in favor

 Opposed: 0

Article 2 passed as recommended, by unanimous hand vote at 8:40 p.m.

As a courtesy to the Town Manager, Mr. Allan from Precinct 3 moves Article 6 as recommend

Seconded at 8:41 p.m.

Article as written:

Article 6: To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Water Enterprise Fund for the ensuring Fiscal Year 2017 (Town Manager).

At 8: 42 p.m. Mr. Martin Costello from Precinct 10 inquires on the Revenue Stream for the water in the Town? His question is what the estimate of the collection rate at 82% and why it stays that way? Why not at a greater percentage? What if any improvement in that number?

At 8:43 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree defers to the Treasurer/Collector, Wendy Hatch.

At 8:43 p.m. Treasurer/Collector Wendy Hatch informs Town Meeting that the average used by the Abrahams Group in calculation of the water and sewer rate analysis. The 83% is in reference to the water charges within the current fiscal year, the balance is made up of water and sewer liens and those who don't pay the bill in the prior year we add to the next year's tax bill. The town issues a water and sewer bill twice a year (Feb/Aug). Within a couple of weeks we issue a demand notice and if remains unpaid the town issues a water /sewer lien and it is outstanding and will be added to your tax bill. It is collected but it is a timing issue and a fight to get all that revenue collected.

Article as voted: Vote to recommend that the following sums be appropriated to operate the Water Enterprise Fund. \$6,029,068.00 funded from Water Enterprise Fund Revenue, \$391,381.00 to come from Retained Earnings for a total FY17 Water Enterprise Fund Appropriation of \$6,420,449.00. \$472,664.00 is to be appropriated in the General Fund funded by Water Enterprise Fund Revenue for Indirect Costs.

Article 6 passed as recommended, by unanimous voice vote at 8:47 p.m.

As a courtesy to the Town Manager, Mr. Allan from Precinct 3 moves Article 7 as recommend

Seconded at 8:47 p.m.

Article as written:

Article 7: To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the ensuring Fiscal Year 2017 (Town Manager).

No Discussion

Article as voted: Vote to recommend that the following sums be appropriated to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund. \$3,782,817.00 funded from Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenue and \$757,822.00 to come from Retained Earnings for a total FY17 Sewer Enterprise Fund Appropriation of \$4,540,639.00. \$524,354.00 is to be appropriated in the General Fund funded by Sewer Enterprise Fund Revenue for Indirect Costs.

Article 7 passed as recommended, by unanimous voice vote at 8:48 p.m.

As a courtesy to the Town Manager, Mr. Allan from Precinct 3 moves Article 16 as recommend

Seconded at 8:49 p.m.

Article as written:

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to increase water rates with all receipts to be held within the Water Enterprise Fund to be used exclusively for water expenses, water maintenance, water debt and interest and water improvement programs, or take any other action thereto. (Town Manager)

Mr. Allan calls for a Roll Call Vote at 8:50 p.m.

At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Bill Brown from Precinct 6 speaks about the increase of water to 9.5% when last year it was 3% sewer and the year before that 9.6% increase in 2014 and in 2013 it was a 3% water increase rate. It's been over 20 % in the last 4 years. He doesn't support this increase and there is no need for it. He urges all to vote NO.

At 8:51 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree states that if you watch the Finance Committee meetings it was to do a 5 year rate analysis and projection where it has been recognized over the years the Town supplements the rates. The goal was what rate is needed to be charged? After the 5 years was a 10% retained earnings. Water consumption is very volatile depending if you have a wet or dry summer. He explains that there are Tier 1 users there is an increase of \$8.00 dollars twice a year (which is about 70% of the town's users). The Tier 2 user is an increase of \$12.00 dollars twice a year. The average residential user is an increase of \$19.00 dollars twice a year while the commercial users will be an increase of \$167.00 twice a year.

At 8:58 p.m. Mr. Brent Spencer from Precinct 5 asks the Manager and/or the Finance Committee why the analysis recommends 7.5% and the warrant says 9.5%...why the difference in the 2%.

At 8:59 p.m. Ken DePatto Chairman of the Finance Committee explains the percentage increase and how the Finance Committee gets to that percentage. Another increase is to assist in improvements to the piping for water and sewer infrastructures.

At 9:01 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree speaks about the incorrectly labeled issue (typo).

At 9:01 p.m. Mr. Steven Divigilio from Precinct 10 states he is on the Finance Committee and these funds are capitalized by debt which grows each year. These funds have way too much debt for the Town.

At 9:03 p.m. Mr. Al DiNardo from Precinct 4 speaks about prior to 2000 the General Fund was subsidized water and very

cheap. During the Angelo Administration the town started to have people pay for their water which was still cheap. He hopes that Town Meetings will support this Article.

At 9:06 p.m. Mr. Ed Decareau from Precinct 8 states that 9.5% is too much for Saugus. He makes a motion to go with 7.5% across the board.

Discussion on the Amendment

At 9:08 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree reminds everyone this is a Financial Decision not an emotional decision.

At 9:11 p.m. Ms. Pam Goodwin from Precinct 5 asks the Town Manager or the Finance Committee if the town went with the 7.5% instead of the 9.5%, what would the difference in dollars be to the Tier 1 users?

At 9:12 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree is unable to come up with that right now but by voting in a lesser rate we are building in a deficit to the account, but he thinks it could be a dollar. It is the commercial user that pays the bulk.

At 9:14 p.m. Ms. Patricia Johnson from Precinct 7 asks FY17, 18, 19 at %5 and 2020 and 21 it will drop down to 4.8%? So once we raise it for 9.5% it will not be raised?

At 9:15 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree answers about the revenue forecast and we are only voting for this year. This is to look where we are going and recast each year depending on what happens each year. Different factors will have an effect.

At 9:16 p.m. Mr. Steven Divigilio from Precinct 10 asks town meeting if anyone looked at the Town's debts? These funds continually increase and we need to get these in order.

At 9:18 p.m. Mr. J. Brian Costin from Precinct 7 states that this money is going into an Enterprise Account that cannot be used for anything else. He is in favor of this Article.

Vote on the Amendment to change Finance Committee's recommendation from 9.5% to 7.5%.

Seconded at 9:18 p.m.

In favor of the change?

Hand Count Vote by Tellers:

Left:	1
Right:	4
Total:	5 in favor

Left: 19
Right: 19
Total: 38 opposed

Amendment has failed

Article as voted: Voted to recommend the Town vote a 9.5% increase in the water rates for Fiscal Year 2017 with all receipts to be held in the Water Enterprise Fund to be used exclusively for water expenses, water maintenance, water debt and interest and water improvement programs, or take any other action related thereto.

Roll Call vote:

Town Meeting Member name	Yea/Nay Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Yea/Nay Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Yea/Nay Absent
ATTUBATO, J	Y	ALLEN, P	N	BARTOLO, J.	N
BILLINGSLEY, S.	Y	BRAZIS, K	Y	BROWN, W.	N
CANTERBURY, M.	Y	CICOLINI, J.	Y	COBURN, J.	Y
CONNORS, A.	A	COSTELLO, M.	Y	COSTIN, J.B.	Y
COTTAM, J.	Y	COX, R.	Y	DECAREAU, E.	N
DEVLIN, F.A.	Y	DINARDO, A.	Y	DIVIRGILIO, A.	Y
DOHERTY, S.		FALASCA, T.	Y	FINN, C.	Y
FOWLER, J.	Y	GOODWIN, P.	Y	GOLDSTEIN, J.	Y
GROARK, L.	Y	HORLICK, S.	Y	JOHNSON, P.	Y
JONES, C.	Y	KELLY, D.	Y	LEUCI, W.	Y
LOPRESTI, A.	N	MCCABE, K.	Y	MCCARTHY, S.	Y
MCLAUGHLIN, P.	Y	MCTAGUE, J.	A	MORESCHI, C.	Y
MURPHY, S.	N	PAOLINI, M.	Y	POLITANO, K.	Y
RING, D.	A	RODENHISER, J.	Y	ROSSETTI, P.	Y
SERINO, M.	Y	SPENCER, B.	Y	STEWART, W.	Y
SULLIVAN, P.	A	SWEEZEY, S.	Y	THOMPSON, R.	Y
WALLACE, R.	Y	WITTEN, R.	Y		

Yeas: 39
Nays: 5
Abst: 5

Article 16 passed as recommended, by roll call vote at 9:24 p.m.

Call of the Moderator for someone to make a motion to adjourn the 2016 ATM.

Motion to adjourn meeting given at 9:25 p.m.

Unanimous voice vote at 9:26 p.m. to adjourn sine die.

Seconded at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Joyce Schena
Town Clerk